

Final JUNE Vestry MINUTES

June 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Mark Collins at 6:30 pm.

Present: F. Mark Collins, Jean Geater, John Hatheway, Janice Ewing, Susan Walker, Fabio Mejia, Inez Lambert, Lydia Colon, Jeanne Blazina, Yvonne O'Neal, and Theresa Paolucci.

Absent: Judith Jones, Bill Ambler, Donna Bradbury, Wendy Wright, and John Ewing (Treasurer).

Also attending were guests: Dr. Steven Knight (former warden and Green Faith Fellow), Melanie Hill (former President of Triangle Theatre) and Amelia V. Anderson (current President of Triangle Theatre).

We opened with a prayer. The Agenda was reviewed and items were added. A quorum was present.

Annual Triangle Theatre Report

Melanie Hill presented the annual financial report for Triangle Theatre. Normally, 20% of the net of Triangle Theatre receipts is given to the Church of the Holy Trinity, but for a recent benefit performance 100% of the receipts were given to the church, with Triangle Theatre absorbing all expenses and the actors receiving no compensation. In other performances, the costs vary.

Fr. Mark Collins praised the group for its fine work and generous donation to the church. He pointed out that many months later the performance of "DOUBT" was still eliciting comments from viewers. Their productions create an excellent basis for our best Christian Ed forums. Dudley Stone has done much to ensure the quality of Triangles productions. Many thanks to the past and present Presidents for their fine work. Looking forward to the fall they will present "The Importance of Being Ernest".

People's Climate March

Dr. Steven Knight, former warden of the church and current Green Faith Fellow presented a request for the vestry to adopt a resolution to support the "People's Climate March":

Whereas, the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations in New York City and around the world; and

Whereas, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report warns of the increasing likelihood of "abrupt and irreversible" disruption to human and natural systems due primarily to increased worldwide use of carbon-based energy; and

Whereas, these disruptive climatic changes will be felt most acutely by those who are least responsible for creating them: citizens of less developed nations, and future generations; and

Whereas, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has called for a Climate Summit of world leaders in New York City this September to reach agreement on binding international limits to carbon emissions by 2015 to address the threat of climate change; and

Whereas, a People's Climate March of groups representing environmental, labor, student, civic, justice and faith organizations is planned in New York City for the weekend of September 20-21 to offer public support for the UN Climate Summit; and

Whereas, as a Christian community we are called by scriptural covenant to protect the Earth's diverse ecosystems for future generations; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the vestry of the Church of the Holy Trinity on East 88 St. in Manhattan, endorse the People's Climate March, and call *upon all people of faith to* participate in this act of witness for the future of our Earth.

There was lively discussion of what the march means and why we should or should not endorse it. Yvonne pointed out that last year Peace and Restorative justice endorsed this march. The annual meeting at the UN to discuss Climate change and actions to be taken has gone on for many years. This year UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon hopes to get a binding resolution when many international leaders remain in NYC after the general Assembly finishes in the September.

John Hatheway made a motion to support the resolution, as amended. Yvonne seconded it. It passed 7-2 with one abstention.

TREASURERS REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer we discussed his submitted written report. Jean Geater asked "Why were program costs were so high?" They are at 56% of the year's budget. Music has used 58% of their total budget, which is the largest component of the Programs budget in the first 5 months of the year. July and August have no paid singers. Utilities and repairs are also way above average for the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget

Fr. Mark Collins reported on this committee, which met last night. The Staff Manual roll out will be completed this week.

Check signing has been reassigned to the executive committee and the Treasurer will electronically sign all pay checks.

There was a discussion of the Property Preservation Trust (PPT) and how it works. The trust document that governs the PPT specifies that 5% of the value may be added to spendable income each year. It also specifies that spendable income can be used for "capital improvements to buildings and grounds of the Church of the Holy Trinity, including major restoration work, major repairs, and major landscaping" and not for "ordinary or routine maintenance and repairs." Decisions about which projects to support from the PPT are made by the Distribution Committee." By charter, the Vestry must decide which capital projects to take on. At present, these decisions are made based on recommendations from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which executes the contract(s). If it is expected that PPT funds may be used for a project, the Buildings and Grounds Committee should consult with the PPT Distributions Committee to determine if the project qualifies and will be funded by the PPT. This may be done prior to the execution of the contract. Projects that are supported by the PPT are paid for from operations and subsequently reimbursed.

Process plays an important role of the Finance and Budget committee and it was noted Carol Haley has suggested a way of looking at the budget that we will try to use this fall. If we inform ourselves of the goals and values we want to have we can better address the budget on discretionary spending.

Buildings and Grounds

John Hatheway presented the report. As we no longer are considering geothermal due to a lack of a feasible proposal, we need to hire an engineer to design the new gas-fired heating system. JH suggested that a gas-fired heating system can run at a lower operating cost and require fewer repairs and therefore save us money when compared to a geo-thermal heat pump system. JH recommended that Hanington Engineering be hired to design our system, Jean Geater asked why we did not have two or three bids as we did with the roof. John had asked New York Engineers for a proposal back in January, and he gave an estimate of \$30,000; Hanington gave an estimate of \$10-15,000, so John recommended Hanington Engineers. John will ask for a third proposal. It was decided that last month's approval of funds for an engineer's report was consistent with this task.

John is still getting an additional estimate for roof repairs from Preserv Contracting. This is the number one priority.

He presented three bids for repairs to the rectory, St. Christopher's House, gym, and basement. Buildings and Grounds made the second egress from the gym and basement repairs a priority. Health department inspections and the possibility of rental income influenced the decision. In addition, these are the lower cost items and once we have the diocesan assessment deferral confirmed, we will proceed with the Rectory.

The Music committee did not meet, and there was no report from any other committee.

OTHER REPORTS

Senior Warden Jean Geater

Jean reported that Jim Synk had thanked the table heads for their work at MayFair.

Warden John Hatheway

John brought up the search committee Parish Profile. He would like to see it written by FALL in order to get it moving along faster and to try to be ahead of the other churches that might be looking for a new rector, as it was said most start looking in December.

Inez Lambert, on the search Committee was uncertain there was enough time, but said she would bring it to the Committee meeting in July

John made a motion to get the profile done by fall, if possible. Yvonne O'Neal seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.

This stimulated a lengthy discussion of the whole process and how people felt about it.

Interim Rector Fr. Mark Collins

Fr. Mark reported he has spoken to the new Diocesan CFO, Canon Michael McPherson, who is from Christ and St. Stephens. He counseled Fr. Mark that we should proceed on the assumption we will receive the deferral. (A deferral means that we will pay only a portion of this year's Diocesan Assessment, using the remainder for capital repairs. The deferred assessment will then be paid in installments in future years.) Fr. Mark will write the letter this week, share it with the executive committee, and then submit it. The deferral should be approved at the Fall meeting.

The new water heater was installed by NIKO, after three contractors were asked to bid. One did not respond and as this was an immediate need the contractor who replaced the other one last winter was given the contract, approved by the Executive Committee.

Church of the Holy Trinity has been offered a generous gift of stock from Betsy and Chris Forster. This restricted gift is to cover painting behind the organ. There was discussion about why it was not done during the previous organ overhaul. Fr. Mark will try to determine if the invoice submitted for that previous work included painting. It is hoped there will be the possibility of painting the opposite transept wall at the same time with the rest of the funds. Fr. Mark will consult with Betsy and Chris so if there are excess funds they can be used to do other repair work in the sanctuary.

A motion was made by the chair, Fr. Mark Collins: The Vestry resolves to accept the gift of stock from Betsy and Chris Forster, the bulk of which will be used for completion of repairs to the south transept wall with any excess to be used for other church interior repairs designated by the Vestry. Yvonne seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

This year's Parochial report was presented, and Yvonne made a motion to accept it as written. Fabio Mejia seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Diocesan Delegates. The Delegates from last year, Marlin Mattson and Yvonne O'Neal, agreed to be nominated again. Susan Walker also agreed to be re-nominated as alternate. Lydia Colon will be the second alternate. A motion from the Chair to nominate these delegates was seconded by Jean Blazina and accepted unanimously.

UPCOMING DATES

June 12: Clericus barbecue in church yard

July 8: Next Vestry meeting, (John Hatheway offered to bring snacks)

July 13: Picnic after church, celebrating the last 'black out' in NYC

THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST VESTRY MEETING

submitted by Janice Ewing, Clerk